

ARKANSAS VOTER GUIDE

2018 Primary Election

Last Day to Early Vote: May 21

Election day is Tuesday, May 22

Primary Election Runoff is June 19

2018 General Election

Last Day to Early Vote: Nov. 5

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 6

General Election Runoff is Dec. 4

This guide is designed to help protect everyone’s right to vote. Share it, keep it handy, and take it to the polls on Election Day.

If you need additional assistance, contact us at **1-866-OUR-VOTE, 1-866-687-8683** or contact us directly at www.acluarkansas.org/get-help.

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QUICK TIPS FOR VOTERS

- Vote early before Election Day, if possible.
- If you plan to vote at the polls, locate your polling place in advance.
- Vote early or early in the day to avoid the last-minute rush, if you can.
- Read all instructions carefully and ask for help if you need it.
- Take your time; you have up to 5 minutes in the voting booth to vote.

Checking your voter registration status is especially important because some voters have been erroneously removed from Arkansas's registered voter list.

WHO CAN VOTE

Can I vote in Arkansas?

- You can register if you meet all of the following qualifications: (1) you're a U.S. citizen; (2) you've been an Arkansas resident for at least 30 days prior to Election Day; (3) you'll be at least 18 years old on Election Day; (4) you're not a convicted felon who has not been discharged or pardoned; (5) you haven't been declared by a court to be mentally incompetent to vote; and (6) you're not registered in another county or state.

What if I've moved?

- Update your registration to reflect your new address. If you have moved to Arkansas from another state, contact the voter registrar in your previous state of residence to request cancellation.
- If you are moving from one county to a different county within the state, your updated registration must be in the county clerk's office by the fourth day before the election. You should also cancel your registration with the country from which you are moving; your county clerk may offer to help you in cancelling your old registration, so be sure to ask for assistance if needed.

What if the address I tell poll workers is different from the address on the registration record?

- When your current address differs from what appears on the precinct voter registration list:
 - A poll worker must contact the county clerk, and
 - The county clerk must verify that your address is within the precinct.
- When your new address is within the same county as your old address:

- Complete the change of address portion of a voter registration application. You will also sign the back of the poll book but you are to be given a regular ballot if you have moved within the same county.
- When your new address is **not** in the same county you moved from:
 - ***Caution:*** *Submitting an address change from one county to another county within four days of the election would render the voter ineligible for that election. Make sure you update your address early if you need to do so if you want to vote in your new county.*
 - You can go to your new polling site in the new county and complete the change of address portion of a voter registration application but you will be given a provisional ballot and your vote is not likely to count in your new county IF the change is made within four days of an election.

How do I know if I'm registered?

- You can check your registration status by calling your county clerk or check online at www.voterview.ar-nova.org or with a mobile device at www.VoterView.org.

RESTORATION OF VOTING RIGHTS FOR PERSONS WITH A FELONY CONVICTION

IF YOU HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY YOU CAN HAVE YOUR VOTING RIGHTS RESTORED!

- Under Arkansas law, people with a felony conviction may restore their right to vote by providing proof that:
 - They have been discharged from probation or parole; and
 - Have paid all court costs, fees, fines, or restitution.
- Once proof that these obligations (fees/fines and time served) have been met is obtained from ADC, DCC, or the court clerk's office, submit this proof to the voter registration department of the county clerk's office where you reside.
- When providing proof, you also will need to complete a voter registration application and submit both to your county clerk.

VOTING EARLY

Can I vote before Election Day?

- **Yes.** The last day for early voting in the 2018 Primary election is May 21, 2018. The last day for early voting in the 2018 Midterm election is November 5, 2018

How do I vote early in person?

- Go to an early voting site. Check your local newspaper or call your county clerk for the hours and location of an early voting site near you. The hours and locations for early voting sites are not the same as for election days. Depending on the type of election being conducted, you may early vote during the 7 or 15 days prior to Election Day.
- Before a preferential primary or general election:
 - You can early vote up to 15 days before the election between the hours of 8 A.M. and 6 P.M. Monday through Friday, and 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. on Saturday, ending at 5 PM on the Monday before the election.
- Before any other election, including all runoff elections:
 - You can early vote up to 7 days before the election and ending on the day before the Election Day at the time the county clerk's office regularly closes.

VOTING ABSENTEE

Can anyone vote absentee in Arkansas?

- You can vote absentee in Arkansas if you are a qualified voter who will be unavoidably absent from the polls on the day of the election, or a qualified voter who will be unable to attend the polls because of illness or physical disability.
- This specifically includes, but is not limited to persons who are traveling; reside in a long-term care or residential facility licensed by the state; members of the Uniformed Services, merchant marines or the spouse of a dependent family member and are away from your polling location due to the member's active duty status.

How do I get an absentee ballot?

- Call or visit your county clerk's office to get an application for an absentee ballot. To obtain your county clerk's name and phone number visit: www.arcounties.org/counties
- Then submit your application to your county clerk's office in **one** of the following ways:
 - **in person** no later than **May 21, 2018** for the primary election and no later than **November 5, 2018** for the general election at the end of the business day; **by mail or fax** no later than **May 15, 2018** for the primary election and no later than **October 30, 2018** for the general election at the end of the business day;

- **by sending a “designated bearer”***** (someone you choose to pick up or deliver your ballot) no later than **May 21, 2018** for the primary election and no later than **November 5, 2018** for the general election; or;
- **by sending an “authorized agent”** (an administrator who has filed an affidavit with the county clerk authorizing him or her to assist voters who are hospitalized or living in a long-term care facility) by 1:30 pm on Election Day.

***Each Designated Bearer can only hand in two absentee ballots for two different voters. The Designated Bearer must present ID to deliver the ballot.

What’s the deadline for returning my absentee ballot?

- To be counted, your absentee ballot must be received by your county clerk by the close of business on the day before the election, if you deliver it personally by hand, or by 7:30 pm the day of election if you deliver it by mail, by a designated bearer, or by authorized agent.

What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

- As long as you have not already submitted the absentee ballot, you should be allowed to cast a provisional ballot.

Do I have to present identification in order to vote absentee?

- Yes, you must submit a copy of a compliant form of identification with an absentee ballot. If you do not have or supply a copy of identification, you should make sure to sign the voter statements. See page 7 for more information on voter identification requirements.

VOTING ON ELECTION DAY: Tues. Nov. 6

When are the polls open?

- Polls will be open on Election Day from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. You have the right to vote if you’re in line when the polls close.

Can I get time off from work to vote?

- If your work schedule would otherwise prevent you from voting in person while the polls are open on Election Day, your employer is required to schedule you so that you have an opportunity to vote.

Where do I vote?

- On Election Day, unless your county is one of the very few that has vote centers, you must vote at the voting precinct to which you're assigned in order to cast a regular ballot that counts.
- You can call your county clerk or look up your polling place online at www.VoterView.org or if in Pulaski County at www.VotePulaski.net. You can find your county clerk's phone number and fax number at: www.arcountries.org/counties
- If for some reason you are being denied a ballot or being turned away from your polling place, you can insist on casting a provisional ballot at that or any other polling place.

Can I bring campaign materials with me into my polling place?

- It's illegal to distribute, hand out, or display campaign materials at a polling place or to distribute any campaign materials within 100 feet of the entrance to the polling place. But you can bring a voting aid for your own use such as a sample ballot, a voter guide, this booklet, or even campaign materials to be used as a voting aid so long as the campaign materials are not displayed or distributed.

What if my polling place is not accessible?

- You have the right to an accessible polling place and an accessible voting machine. If you prefer, you also may vote by absentee ballot but your county board of elections is responsible for ensuring an accessible polling place for you.
- You can also have two poll workers help you, or you can bring one person of your choice to assist you. You have the right to have anyone you choose assist you as long as the person is not your employer, an agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your labor union.
- Any voter who is unable to stand in line for extended periods of time due to a disability should inform poll workers and the voter is entitled to move to the front of the line.

Can I get a ballot in my native language?

- Most election materials in Arkansas are available in English only (however some county clerks and the Secretary of State's Office do have Spanish-language voter registration forms). You have the right to bring a translator

with you to the polls or to get assistance in your language from anyone you choose, as long as the person is not your employer, an agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your labor union.

What if I need help in the voting booth?

- If you need help because of a physical disability or because you can't read the ballot, tell a poll worker when you get to your polling place. You have the right to vote on an accessible voting machine. You also have the right to have anyone you choose to assist you in the voting booth, including poll workers, as long as the person is not your employer, an agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your labor union.
- If you need instructions on how to use the voting equipment, ask a poll worker for help. Poll workers are required to help you.

VOTER IDENTIFICATION

- Poll workers are required to request that voters present photo identification.
- This identification must:
 - Show the voter's name and photo;
 - Be issued by the United States, State of Arkansas, or accredited postsecondary institution in Arkansas; and
 - If the identification has an expiration date, it must be current or have expired no more than 4 years before the election.
 - Documents that meet these requirements include a driver's license, a photo identification card, a concealed carry handgun permit, a US Passport, a student ID or employee badge from an accredited institution, a military ID, a voter verification card, or a public assistance ID that shows a photo of the cardholder
- If you fail to provide any identification, you can still cast a provisional ballot. That ballot should count unless there is some independent (non-voter ID) reason not to count it. To be safe, you should try to return with your ID, if you have one, to your county's board of election commissioners or your county clerk by Noon the Monday after the election
- Voter verification cards are available through the Secretary of State's Office or the office of your county clerk free of charge to anyone who is registered to vote and does not have another valid form of identification.
- The address on your ID should **NOT** be a reason to deny your right to vote. The address associated with your voter registration does **NOT** have to match the address on your ID.

PROBLEMS AT THE POLLS

What if I'm not on the voter list?

- First, ask a poll worker to check the list again and to confirm that you're at the right polling place. The poll worker should ask you to confirm your address and date of birth and attempt to verify with your county clerk that you are a registered voter in the county and at that precinct.
- If you're at the right polling place but your name isn't on the voter list and the poll worker cannot confirm your information, you can ask for a provisional ballot. You have the right to cast a provisional ballot even if your name is not on the voter list, as long as you're willing to swear that you believe you are registered to vote.

What if my name differs from the precinct voter registration List?

- You must complete a voter registration form to update county voter registration records, but you should be allowed to vote.
- The poll worker will request that you complete a voter registration application in order to update county records.

What if I go to the wrong polling place?

- Call 1-866-OUR-VOTE or 1-866-687-8683 for help locating your polling place. If you've gone to the wrong polling place, you can ask a poll worker to help you find the polling place where you're registered. You can also call your county clerk or look up your polling place online at www.VoterView.org. If you're unsure where to go and for some reason can't find out, go to the polling place you think is most likely the right one.

What if someone challenges my right to vote?

- **Assert your right**, but especially on Election Day (as opposed to early voting), if you cannot persuade poll workers and elections officials to accept you as a voter, **you can always ask for a provisional ballot**. Your county board of election commissioners review your ballot and rule on the challenge before the election results become final, and your ballot will be counted if they determine that you were eligible to vote.

What if someone tries to intimidate or harass me?

- Tell a poll worker right away. If the poll worker is the problem, the election judge, and also call your county clerk. Call one of the election hotline numbers listed at the end of this card, and/or make a complaint online at www.acluarkansas.org/get-help. You should also make a complaint with your county board of election commissioners and the Arkansas State Board of Elections. You can ask for the names of any poll worker.
- You can find the names and contact information for you county board of election commissioners at www.arkansas.gov/sbec/election-commissioner and information on making a complaint to the Arkansas State Board of Election can be found at www.arkansas.gov/sbec/election-information/complaints/ .

What if I make a mistake on my ballot or the voting machine malfunctions?

- Tell a poll worker before you cast your vote. If you spoil a paper ballot, you have the right to up to two replacement ballots as long as you catch the mistake before you cast your ballot. If your machine malfunctions, bring it to the poll workers' attention so that you can vote on a different machine or paper ballot.

What if I have to vote using a provisional ballot?

- Always inquire why you are being offered a provisional ballot.
- Ask for a notice of rights if you are not provided one.
- The election official will provide the voter with written instructions on how to determine whether the provisional vote was counted, and if not, the reason the vote was not counted.
- A voter may be able to resolve a problem that required them to vote a provisional ballot by attending the meeting of the county board of election commissioners. The date, time, and address of this meeting will be included on either the written instructions given by the poll worker when the voter casts their provisional ballot or in a separate notice mailed to the voter.

How do I make a complaint?

- First, ask for an election judge at your polling place. He or she can handle most routine complaints that arise on Election Day. Candidates, political parties, and nonprofit groups may also have poll watchers at your polling place who might be able to assist you. If any of those people ask you who you voted for, or if they can't resolve your complaint, call your county clerk, the Secretary of State, or the Arkansas State Board of Election Commissioners. Note: A written

complaint with the Arkansas State Board of Elections must be filed within thirty days of the incident.

- You can also call the Election Protection Hotline at **1-866-OUR-VOTE** or **1-866-687-8683** or make a complaint/file a request online with the ACLU of Arkansas at www.acluarkansas.org/get-help or by mail to ACLU of Arkansas, 904 West 2nd Street, Suite 1, Little Rock, AR 72201.

2018 – IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

April 22, 2018	Deadline to Register to vote for Primary Election
May 21, 2018	Deadline to apply for an absentee ballot for Primary Election in person or by designated bearer at the county clerk's office and to return an absentee ballot to the county clerk's office in person.
May 22, 2018	Deadline to apply for an absentee ballot by authorized agent for Primary Election before 1:30 PM at county clerk's office.
May 22, 2018	Deadline to return an Absentee ballot for Primary Election to county clerk's office by mail, designated bearer, or authorized agent before 7:30pm
May 22, 2018	Primary Election & Judicial Election
June 19, 2018	Runoff Primary Election
October 9th, 2018	Deadline to register to vote for General Election
November 5, 2018	Deadline to apply for absentee ballot for General Election in person or by designated bearer at the county clerk's office & to return an absentee ballot to the county clerk's office in person.
November 6, 2018	Deadline to apply for an absentee ballot by authorized agent for General Election before 1:30 PM at county clerk's office.
November 6, 2018	Deadline to return an absentee ballot for General Election to county clerk's office by mail, designated bearer, or authorized agent before 7:30 PM.
November 6, 2018	General Election
December 4, 2018	Runoff General Election

FOR ASSISTANCE & MORE INFORMATION

1. ACLU of Arkansas: by calling 1-866-OUR-VOTE / 1-866-687-8683
www.acluarkansas.org/get-help
2. County Clerks: www.arcounties.org/counties
3. County Board of Election Commissioners (your local election oversight officials):
<http://www.arkansas.gov/sbec/election-commissioner>
4. Arkansas State Board of Election Commissioners: 1-501-682-1834 or 1-800-411-6996 or www.arkansas.gov/sbec/ Note: you must file a formal complaint within 30 days if you wish the ASBEC to take action on an issue.
5. Arkansas Secretary of State: 1-800-482-1127
6. U.S. Department of Justice, Voting Rights Section: 1-800-253-3931 or 1-202-307-2767
7. U.S. Attorney Offices: Little Rock 1-501-340-2600; Fort Smith 1-479-783-5125

For more ACLU of Arkansas Voting Rights materials visit:
<http://www.acluarkansas.org/know-your-rights>

